

July 2 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

[Representative Volkmer said that Henry Sweets, curator of the Mark Twain Home and Museum, was also participating in the event and mentioned that his own wife, Shirley, and their grandchildren were there as well.]

The President. That's good. Well, tell Shirley and your grandchildren hello. I know it's good to have them there for the Fourth of July.

Representative Volkmer. Yes, it is. The grandchildren jumped frogs this morning, and they're going to be in a parade come Monday.

The President. They jumped frogs, is that—

Representative Volkmer. Oh yes. Yes, we have a frog-jumping contest.

The President. I used to be in one of those every year.

Representative Volkmer. Is that right?

The President. Yes, we've got a ferry about 30 miles from Little Rock, in Arkansas, called Toad Suck Ferry. And every year we had a Toad Suck Day, and we all raced our frogs.

Representative Volkmer. Very good.

The President. I never won, but I always loved it. I competed every year, but I never won.

Representative Volkmer. All right, they're ready to go.

The President. We're ready.

Representative Volkmer. Anytime you're ready to light, we're ready to light.

The President. I have just lit my candle.

Representative Volkmer. Very good. Let's see if it works.

The President. I've always believed it was better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Now, the whole town of Hannibal's done the same thing.

Representative Volkmer. Yes, that's right, and we're all waiting, and it's coming closer, and it's coming closer—there's one more. The switch should go—ahh, there it is.

The President. Good for you.

Representative Volkmer. All right, there it is, Mr. President. Thank you very, very much, Mr. President. Tell Hillary hello for us.

The President. I'll do it. Thank you, Congressman.

Representative Volkmer. And you all have a real nice Fourth.

The President. Tell everybody hello. Thank you, and God bless you.

Representative Volkmer. Thank you very much.

The President. Goodbye.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 10:45 p.m. The President spoke from Camp David, MD.

Statement on Senate Action on Health Care Reform Legislation July 2, 1994

The action of the Senate Finance Committee today moves health care reform another step closer to final passage.

Chairman Moynihan has worked diligently to make sure his committee produced a bill to debate on the Senate floor. His commitment to universal coverage has been clear throughout this process, and I look forward to his continued leadership as we move toward guaranteed health coverage for every American.

I remain firmly committed to guaranteed health coverage for every American that can never be taken away. We must achieve universal coverage if we are to reform our health care system and assure hard-working, middle class Americans that they will have health care when they need it. I am confident that we will achieve the goal of guaranteed coverage for everyone this year, and I look forward to the debate in the full House and Senate.